

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
July 24, 2006

Present: Berger, Bunker, Chair Cooney, Fort, Longley-Cook, Lord-Hausman, Kirola, Vice-Chair Moore (left at 8:15)

Absent/Excused: Crone, Steffens

Guests: None

MINUTES: The minutes of April 24, 2006 were approved with the following corrections: a) “were approved” not “where approved” in Minutes section.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Disability Awareness Month Activities.

The commissioners discussed the proposed performance of Axis Dance Company, which is directed by Molly McFarlane, an Alameda resident. The group will be doing performances in San Francisco and Oakland, and has asked for a \$500 stipend from those cities, but are willing to work with Alameda on an alternative amount. Concerns about the performance include the weather in October, what day to have it, ground surface for the dancers if out-of-doors, size of performance area (preferably 30 feet by 20 feet, but 20 feet by 20 feet would be OK), source of funding for stipend and other expenses, conflicting events such as Yom Kippur (October 1st), theme, banner proclaiming “Disability Awareness Month”, if there should be speakers such as the Mayor as well, microphone and loudspeaker needs, Commissioner and Vice Chairman Moore and Commissioner Lord-Hausman will speak with Ms. McFarlane, the School District, Parks and Recreation, and Debbie Oppenud, Special Olympics Coach, and will have a full proposal for decision making at the August meeting. In the interim, comments among commissioners will be circulated through Chair Cooney. Chair Cooney will speak with Ed Sommerauer to ensure that the proclamation by Council is requested in a timely manner.

2. Availability of Staff Reports

Staff presented recommendations: Policy changes are the only comments that go directly to Council. Environmental document comments go to the Planning Department, to be taken under advisement for their staff comments to Council. Improvement plan comments go to Public Works Department, to be taken under advisement for their staff comments to Council. The Commission would like to be on the leading edge of the planning process, not the tail end. As examples, Chair Cooney mentioned the Washington Dog Park, Webster Street Improvements, and the Theater. There was some question as

to how to present the improvement projects in a way that is accessible to all members, especially those who cannot see the plan sets. Wooden models are highly appreciated. Sandpaper cutouts on paperboard are useful for simple drawings.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Accessibility Policy:

Staff presented certain changes recommended to make the policy more specific. The changes were met with approval. Staff will make the changes, write up a staff report to accompany it, and then submit it to Council for their approval. Staff was directed to come up with a budget to implement the policy, and a source of funding. For example, there should be more extensive signage of what is available, such as assistive listening devices, in meeting halls. There should be a standardized statement on all agendas as to what is available at meetings and in advance of meetings. The agendas and announcements should be available in a variety of forms – not everyone has access to the city website, or can read the newspaper. There should be people with disabilities serving on other commissions. The Commissioners discussed the need to have an ADA expert in each department. Staff informed the Commission of the intent by Risk Management to hire an accessibility issues staff person, and the Commissioners expressed interest in being involved in the hiring process, budget, and accountability related to this new position. The Chair requested that staff provide a copy of the ADA and Title 24 in Braille, tape, or screen-readable format for himself, and Braille or tape format for Commissioner Fort.

2. Bayport Park:

There is some concern that there may not be enough accessible toilets for women and children at Bayport Park. Staff will double check and report back.

3. Events Calendar:

The next concert in Crab Cove is August 11th. Commissioners Longley-Cook and Berger will again attend and offer information, including a flyer from the Transportation and Land Use Coalition entitled “Alameda for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities”. They will look into obtaining large print and Braille copies as well.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Commissioner Langly-Cook attended the Transportation Commission meeting June 29th, and, regarding the Towne Centre renovation project. She was pleased to see the accessibility improvements. Commissioner Lord-Hausman will attend next month, when South Shore will again be discussed.

2. The July 20th edition of the Alameda Sun, mentioned Commissioner Langly-Cook in the article "Where the Sidewalk Ends".
3. Commissioner Cooney stated that a policy on construction was passed last March and sent out to contractors, to the best of his knowledge. He would like staff to double check this.
4. The Miracle League Baseball group is partnering with Alameda Rotary. The local representative is Roberta Rockwell. This involves a modified, rubberized field that is accessible to players with disabilities. They have 300 eligible kids. Catellus has offered some land, and the Giants and A's are interested in participating. The construction date is planned for the Spring of 2008. The Commission would like a representative to speak at their next meeting. Commissioner Lord-Hausman will follow up, and request that Ms. Rockwell be allowed to speak as the first item of business.
5. Commissioner Steffans has not attended the last few meetings. Chair Cooney will ask for her resignation.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, August 28, 2006 in Room 360, City Hall.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Naclerio
Public Works Director

Laurie Kozisek
Associate Civil Engineer

LK:lc